

YOUTH SUPPORT PROJECT - Summary of the Project Initiation Document

Introduction

Services to young people aged 11 to 19 living in Hampshire are currently provided by a variety of organisations, including Hampshire Children's Services and South Central Connexions.

The Government has decided that, with effect from 1 April 2008 funding and the responsibility for commissioning Connexions services will transfer to local authorities.

In June 2007 the Hampshire County Council Executive Lead Member for Children's Services, approved the proposal that from 1 April 2008 youth support services will be re-structured and delivered through the Children's Services Department of Hampshire County Council: this means that the services currently provided by South Central Connexions will be brought into direct management by Hampshire County Council, Children's Services.

The Director of Hampshire County Council Children's Services will manage the process of change through the youth support transition project.

The project will seek to ensure a smooth transition by maintaining service delivery to young people aged between 13 to 19 years of age and up to 25 for those with learning difficulties and disabilities. Services will target those who are likely to have additional needs and are therefore less likely to achieve their full potential. Eventually service delivery will be extended to include those aged 11 and 12.

Youth Support will

- Provide services that meet the needs of young people.
- Work closely with partners to increase the range of facilities and activities available to young people.
- Directly manage a range of universal and targeted services, ensuring that young people who need additional support can progress from universal to targeted services particularly through use of the common assessment framework.

How this will be achieved

The transition project will be coordinated by a lead officer reporting to the Project Board. There will also be specific task and finish groups concentrating on key areas and reporting to the Board through the lead officer. The Project Board and the task and finish groups all include staff from both Hampshire County Council Children's Services and South Central Connexions. The membership of these groups is detailed in Appendix 1 of the Project Initiation Document, which can be downloaded from <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/iyss.htm>

The task and finish groups will work together to shape and develop a business case for the new service arrangements and then plan implementation. They will work to ensure the needs of young people living in Hampshire, are met and that others who are interested, including staff, schools, young people, voluntary organisations, other agencies and district councils, have the opportunity to become engaged in the process.

Task and finish groups will identify and ensure that risks or issues are identified and the implications managed.

Constraints

Two important factors that may impact on the success of the project, and the new service arrangements are:

- The time scale is short; and
- Funding. The Government's Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) will not be available until late Autumn. The outcome of this may require further work on new service arrangements and will impact on the size and shape of the future service.

Key dates

The following dates mark key steps in the process.

	Milestone	Estimated Target Date
1	Engagement with stakeholders, customers and staff	Throughout
2	New service delivery arrangements described	28 September 2007
3	Initial identification of South Central Connexions staff eligible for TUPE and County Council staff who are impacted by the change	1 October 2007
4	Report to Executive member on finalised structure and any service level agreement proposals	11 October 2007
5	Report to the Executive member on progress with ongoing TUPE arrangements and potential implications to the County Council	13 December 2007
6	Consultation with County Council staff and Connexions staff	1 January 2008
7	Discussions around slotting in, interview and appointment of Connexions (TUPEd) and County Council staff to new roles from 1 April 2008	1 January 2008
8	TUPE Transfer takes place	1 April 2008
9	New Service goes live	1 April 2008

Further Information and queries

If you have any questions about the Youth Support Project please email youth.faqs@hants.gov.uk
More information is available on <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/iyss>

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